

A NEW SPECIES OF ERODIUM L'HÉR. FROM AUSTRALIA

R. C. CAROLIN

School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney

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Synopsis

Erodium angustilobum is described and collections cited.

ERODIUM ANGUSTILOBUM, sp. nov.

Herba annua adscendens ad 15 cm alta. Folia in rosula basili erecta vel adscendente et paribus oppositis caulinis disposita. Folia basales 15–45 mm. longa 10–20 mm. lata profunde pinnate 5–7-lobata pubescentia ambitu ovati vel elliptici lobus unusquisque oblongus vel anguste oblongus margine inferiore grosse dentato. Stipulae membranaceae late ovato-deltaeae vel ovato-anguste deltaeae pubescentes. Cincinnus floribus paucis vel duabus. Pedunculus pedicellis pilis recurvatis simplicibus. Sepala elliptica vel anguste elliptico-oblonga 9 mm. longa 2.5–3.5 mm. lata dense pubescentia mucronata. Petala caerulea raro rosea. Filamenta staminum ca. 2-plo longiora quam staminodia. Mericarpiis anguste obovoideae 6.5–7 mm. longa pilis longis subpatentibus et pilis brevioribus plus minusve appressis: fovea base aristatae pilis duabus indistinctis et serie pilorum in labio. Rostrum 40–50 mm. longum.

Annual herb up to 30 cm. high with a thin but distinct tap-root. *Leaves* arranged in an erect or ascending basal rosette and in opposite or nearly opposite cauline pairs: basal leaves; laminae ovate to elliptic in outline, 15–45 mm. long, 10–20 mm. wide, deeply pinnately lobed with 6 (rarely 4) lateral lobes and one terminal lobe each lobe oblong to narrow-oblong and deeply toothed or even lobed on the lower margin, pubescent with antrorsely curved simple hairs on both surfaces but slightly denser on the lower surface: petioles 25–65 mm. long, pubescent with variously curved simple hairs; cauline leaves smaller and somewhat narrower sometimes with fewer lobes; stipules membranous, broad-ovate-deltoid to ovate-deltoid, 2–3 mm. long, 2.5–1.5 mm. wide, pubescent, acute or obtuse. *Stems* ascending, pubescent with retrorse arcuate simple hairs. *Flowers* arranged in few- (frequently reduced to 2-) flowered monochasial umbels; peduncles up to 65 mm. long but usually ca. 15 mm. long, pubescent with recurved simple hairs; bracts ovate, 1.5 mm. long, 1–1.5 mm. wide, similar to the stipules; bracteoles lanceolate, ca. 1 mm. long and 0.4 mm. wide, similar to bracts; pedicels similar to peduncles, ca. 15 mm. long, geniculate at the base in the fruiting stage. *Sepals* elliptic to narrow-elliptic-oblong, 9 mm. long, 2.5–3.5 mm. wide, densely pubescent with short recurved simple hairs outside, glabrous inside, mucronate with a short (1 mm.) awn, more or less membranous and ciliate at the margin. *Petals* blue or rarely pinkish, obovate, slightly longer than the sepals. *Stamens*: filaments lanceolate, 3.5–4 mm. long, 1.5 mm. wide. *Staminodes* lanceolate, ca. 2 mm. long and 0.6 mm. wide. *Fruit*: mericarps narrow-obovoid, 6.5–7 mm. long, ca. 1.5 mm. wide, covered with long spreading stiff simple hairs curved upwards towards the top but not distinctly parted at the suture and also some shorter more appressed hairs; pit present at the

base of the awn with two distinct folds beneath it and a line of hairs on the lip: awns gyred to the base with long silky-white hairs on the inside surface: rostrum 40–65 mm. long.

Range: South-western Queensland and into South Australia.

Habitat: Stony soils in open scrub communities.

Typification: *E. angustilobum* sp. nov.—Holotype—Nockatunga, South-western Queensland, R. Carolin no. 4158, 12.viii.1964 (NSW 118249)—Isotype—(SYD). Named after the lobes of the leaf which are narrower than in other Australian species.

Specimens Examined: *South Australia*. Ca. 1.5 km. south of Ten-Mile Dam, T. R. N. Lothian no. 4583, 26.vii.1968 (AD96840204): Musgrave Park, R. T. Lange no. 3, Aug. 1963 (AD96927235): 9 miles north of Warrina, T. R. N. Lothian no. 1375, 7.vii.1963 (AD96338066): 5 km. south of Warrina, T. R. N. Lothian no. 4907, 31.vii.1968 (AD96845282): Kingoonya to Coober Pedy, 6 km. south of Bon Bon Station, T. R. N. Lothian no. 4336, 19.vii.1968 (AD96840136): 84 km. south of Coober Pedy, T. R. N. Lothian no. 2278, 16.viii.1963 (AD96343233): 84 miles south of Coober Pedy, T. R. N. Lothian no. 2296, 16.viii.1963 (AD 96343234): 84 miles south of Coober Pedy, T. R. N. Lothian no. 2277, 16.viii.1963 (AD96343225): Mt. Eba Homestead, P. G. Wilson no. 2295, 28.vii.1962 (AD96317033): Tarcoola, E. H. Ising no. 1191, 5.ix.1920 (BRI1001873).

DISCUSSION

This species belongs to the endemic group previously dealt with (Carolin, 1958). It differs from *E. crinitum* Carolin in the sepal shape, shorter arcuate-retorse hairs, the narrower lobes to the leaves, the shorter staminodes and the hairs on the lip of the pit at the base of the mericarp awn. From *E. cygnorum* ssp. *glandulosum* Carolin it differs in the simple indumentum. Indeed, it shows most similarity to *E. cygnorum* Nees in Lehm. ssp. *cygnorum* but can be distinguished from it by the leaf-lobes and the pubescent pedicel. An occasional specimen of this last sub-species may have a more or less pubescent pedicel but the hairs are then coarser and much less arcuate; moreover the narrower leaf-lobes of *E. angustilobum* are apparently never found in *E. cygnorum*.

The type collection was found growing amongst specimens of *E. crinitum* and a few hundred yards from a colony of *E. cygnorum* ssp. *glandulosum*. No intermediates were found between any of these taxa despite a search for them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to Dr. HJ. Eichler for identifying and sending to me some specimens of this species located in the State Herbarium of South Australia. Also to Miss P. Baxter of the Queensland Herbarium for identifying the specimen located at Brisbane.

Reference

CAROLIN, R. C. 1958.—the species of the Genus *Erodium* L'Hér. Endemic to Australia. PROC. LINN. SOC. N.S.W., 83: 92.